

Amendments to the Claims:

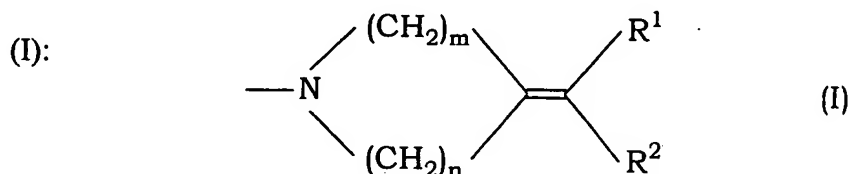
Prior to examination of the above-described application please amend the claims as follows.
 This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

Claim 1 (ORIGINAL): A method for detecting a pathogenic microorganism which comprises infecting an animal or a biosample with the pathogenic microorganism, administering an antimicrobial agent comprising a compound having an antimicrobial effect or a composition thereof before or after the infection, then removing the antimicrobial agent, and thereafter detecting the viable pathogenic microorganism in the infected site with the pathogenic microorganism.

Claims 2 – 17 (CANCELLED).

Claim 18 (NEW): A method for treating subject having onychomycosis comprising administering an effective amount of an antifungal agent compound having a group represented by the formula



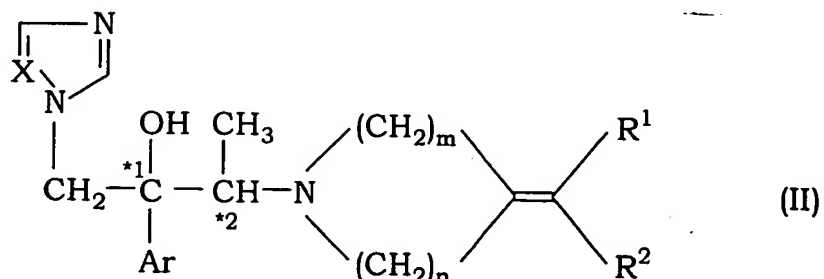
wherein, R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and are hydrogen atom, C_{1-6} alkyl group, a non-substituted aryl group, an aryl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from a halogen atom, trifluoromethyl group, nitro group and C_{1-6} alkyl group, C_{2-8} alkenyl group, C_{2-6} alkynyl group, or C_{7-12} aralkyl group,

m is 2 or 3,

n is 1 or 2,

or a salt thereof as an active ingredient, to a subject having onychomycosis.

Claim 19 (NEW): The method of Claim 18, in which the compound is the compound represented by formula (II):



wherein, Ar is a non-substituted phenyl group or a phenyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from a halogen atom and trifluoromethyl group,

R¹ and R² are the same or different and are hydrogen atom, C₁₋₆ alkyl group, a non-substituted aryl group, an aryl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from a halogen atom, trifluoromethyl group, nitro group and C₁₋₁₆ alkyl group, C₂₋₈ alkenyl group, C₂₋₆ alkynyl group, or C₇₋₁₂ aralkyl group,

m is 2 or 3,

n is 1 or 2,

X is nitrogen atom or CH, and

*1 and *2 mean an asymmetric carbon atom.

Claim 20 (NEW): The method of Claim 19, in which the compound represented by the formula (II) is (2R,3R)-2-(2, 4-difluorophenyl)-3-(4-methylen piperidine-1-yl)-1-(1H-1,2,4-triazole-1-yl) butane-2-ol.